

MAY BLANKED IN BRUSSELS

By **STEVE HAWKES**
Deputy Political Editor

THERESA May told arrogant EU leaders: "I think I'd better leave now" after being blanked at the end of a crunch summit in Brussels.

Sources revealed yesterday a brief presentation the PM made on the UK's Brexit position was met with a stony silence by the 27 other leaders.

After an awkward pause in the Brussels HQ, the PM said: "I think I'd better leave now."

An insider revealed yesterday: "She was very polite but it was a bit embarrassing. It was a difficult moment."

EU leaders have insisted they will not negotiate Brexit before Britain invokes Article 50 to trigger divorce proceedings.

But Mrs May's treatment by the "27" outraged Tories.

The Sun yesterday reported how "No Maytes" Theresa was left sheepishly looking for someone to talk to as she first arrived at the EU Council.

Irish Taoiseach Enda Kenny revealed Mrs May had actually addressed the EU Council.

He said she pushed for a deal to guarantee the rights of Brits leaving the EU and EU citizens in the UK. And he disclosed she said the Government had "good grounds to appeal" against the High Court ruling that Parliament should vote on Article 50.

Mr Kenny said: "There wasn't any response to either of those comments."

EU leaders then spent a mere "20 minutes" discussing Brexit.

Downing Street yesterday confirmed Mrs May had sought an assurance over post-Brexit reciprocal rights. The PM's official spokesman said: "What happens in the negotiations is a matter for the negotiations."

He said she left Brussels without a press conference because the EU Council meeting overran.

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I'D BETTER LEAVE NOW



Glum . . PM
at summit

HAMM ROW

CHANCELLOR Philip Hammond enraged Eurosceptics yesterday by breaking ranks to warn of the dangers of a hard Brexit on trade.

Speaking in South Korea, the Tory, right, said reverting to World Trade Organisation terms and tariffs wasn't his "most favoured outcome".



PM'S GIFTS

THERESA May has received Luxury Legs tights worth £140, the official register of gifts shows.

She also uses a designer Anya Hindmarch travel bag — priced up to £1,650 — on official trips.

The rules state that ministers can keep gifts valued up to £140. Anything over that must be declared.



Replacement . . . bag

Old bag Morgan stand-in

By **STEVE HAWKES**

EX-CABINET Minister Nicky Morgan was replaced by a handbag on last night's Have I Got News For You — following her "Trousersgate" spat with Theresa May.

The Tory "Remoaner" pulled out of the hit BBC show after the fallout from her row with the PM over her pricey leather trousers.

Producers Hat Trick said no reason had been given other than "unforeseen circumstances".

Mrs Morgan sparked a furious backlash from No10 after questioning whether the PM had been right to be snapped in £995 leather trousers in a magazine interview.

As the row escalated, Mrs May's joint chief of staff Fiona Hill banned Ms Morgan from a No10 meeting.

Mrs Morgan was then left red-faced when it emerged she had a £950 designer handbag.

Friends of the ex-Education Secretary admitted she was "toxic" for their Soft Brexit Tory group.

In 1993 Labour's Roy Hattersley was replaced by a tub of lard.

Barack's fightback

PRESIDENT Barack Obama has vowed to retaliate after it emerged Russian hackers influenced the US election.

He said he had tackled Vladimir Putin about the hacked Democrat emails.

Mr Obama said: "There is no doubt that when any foreign government tries to impact the integrity of our elections that we need to take action."

"And we will at a time and place of our own choosing. Some of it may be explicit and publicised — some of it may not be."

Cam out shooting

DAVID Cameron is back shooting game birds after a decade-long break, it was revealed last night.

The former Prime Minister has been shooting twice in the past five months, including a pheasant shoot on the Salperton estate, Gloucs, sources claimed.

One source said Mr Cameron was "actually good", despite being out of practice.

Mr Cameron, who previously enjoyed riding with hounds, is said to be keen on deer stalking.

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TOPSHOP-SUEY

Retail tycoon Sir Philip Green, blasted over the collapse of BHS, has signed a deal to open 80 Topshop stores in China.

FLIGHT FROM ALEPPO FAILS

THE evacuation of the last opposition-held areas of the Syrian city of Aleppo was suspended yesterday as a deal collapsed.

Pro-government militias stopped ambulances and cars containing hundreds of civilians as they demanded that wounded people should also be let out of villages besieged by rebels.

About 50,000 people remain in rebel-held Aleppo, said the United Nations.

About 8,000 had left the city since the evacuation began on Thursday, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said: "Aleppo is now a synonym for hell. I very much regret we had to stop this operation."

Putin navy in Channel

A RUSSIAN warship was escorted through the English Channel yesterday for the second time in two weeks.

HMS Sutherland, a Royal Navy helicopter and French and Dutch ships kept watch on Putin's frigate Yaroslav Mudry. The vessel is going home after missions in the Caribbean, Med and Indian Ocean. In October, a Russian carrier sailed the Channel en route to the Syrian war.

MODERATES RED LEN DIG

RED Len McCluskey accuses Labour moderates of using Unite rival Gerard Coyne to unseat him and pull the union back from the left.

It came as Jeremy Corbyn's main union backer, who has quit Unite to trigger an early election, launched his bid to be re-selected as its general secretary.

Mr McCluskey said: "While we must reject any form of racism and help refugees, we must also listen to the concerns of working people."

That put him at loggerheads with Mr Corbyn and Diane Abbott, who have defended free movement and attacked calls for immigration curbs. Unite official Mr Coyne will challenge Mr McCluskey for the £140,000-a-year job.

CHINA HAS U.S. DRONE



Raid . . . US ship Bowditch

THE US is demanding the return of an underwater research glider seized by a Chinese warship.

The incident happened as the glider, a type of drone, was being recovered after collecting unclassified scientific data in the South China Sea on Thursday.

Pentagon spokesman Captain Jeff Davis said an oceanographic ship, the USNS Bowditch, was retrieving two gliders when the Chinese ship approached, sent out a

boat and took one of them. He said it acknowledged radio messages from the US ship but did not respond to demands for the glider.

He said: "It is ours. It's clearly marked as ours and we would like it back."

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